

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At Page 9, line 18, please insert the following rewritten paragraph:

According to a preferred embodiment, the antigenic peptide of the present invention comprises those amino acid residues corresponding to amino acid residues 2-12 of PTH, collectively identified as 12 in Figures 1-3. Specifically, such antigenic peptide will have the formula:

VAL-SER-GLU-ILE-GLN-X-MET-HIS-ASN-LEU-GLY

wherein X is an amino acid residue selected from either LEU [SEQ NO. 1] or PHE [SEQ NO. 2]. As will be recognized by those skilled in the art, the sixth (6th) amino acid residue of this PTH peptide fragment does differ between the cited species whereby such residue comprises LEU in humans, rats, mice and pigs, on one hand, but PHE for bovids and dogs on the other. As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, notwithstanding the single amino acid residue difference, such antigenic peptide remains otherwise constant between the cited species which, as discussed more fully below, can enable antibodies to be prepared and ultimately utilized that are cross-reactive and, hence, effective in detecting PTH levels in a variety of such species.

On Page 10, line 6, please insert the following rewritten paragraph:

In a more highly preferred embodiment, the peptide antigen reflects the first twelve (12) amino acid residues of PTH, identified as 14, and comprises the formula:

Y-VAL-SER-GLU-ILE-GLN X MET HIS ASN LEU GLY wherein X is an amino acid residue selected from either LEU or PHE and Y is an amino acid residue selected from either SER or ALA [SEQ ID NO. 3, SEQ ID NO. 4, SEQ ID NO. 5 and SEQ ID NO. 6, respectively]. With respect to the variation at the first amino acid residue, it will be readily appreciated that such

antigenic peptide may be formed such that such amino acid comprises SER, as found in humans, dogs and pigs, or ALA, as found in rats, mice and bovids. In this respect, the variation provided for in the antigenic peptide in the present invention, and in particular the more highly preferred embodiments thereof, provide leeway such that the antibodies ultimately derived from such antigenic peptides may be formed to possess a higher binding affinity as may be desired to detect PTH in a given species.

On Page 10, line 19 and line 23, please insert the following rewritten paragraph:

In more highly refined embodiments of the present invention, the antigenic peptides comprise sequences that correspond to amino acid residue 2-15 and 1-15, respectively, of PTH. With regard to the former, identified in Figures 1-3 as 16, such antigenic peptide will have the formula: VAL-SER-GLU-ILE-GLN-X-MET-HIS-ASN-LEU-GLY-LYS-HIS-LEU wherein X is an amino acid residue selected from either LEU [SEQ ID NO. 7] or PHE [SEQ ID NO. 8] With respect to the latter embodiment corresponding to amino acid residues 1-15 of PTH, identified as 10, such antigenic peptide will have the formula: Y-VAL-SER-GLU-ILE-GLN-X-MET-HIS-ASN-LEU-GLY-LYS-HIS-LEU wherein X is an amino acid residue selected from either LEU or PHE and Y is an amino acid residue selected from either SER or ALA [SEQ ID NO. 9, SEQ ID NO. 10, SEQ ID NO. 11, and SEQ ID NO. 12, respectively. A compact disc providing a computer readable form of SEQ ID NOS. 1-12 in compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821-1.825, which is identical to the written sequence listing provided herein, has been submitted to comply with such statutory requirements]. Notwithstanding the foregoing formulas for the aforementioned antigenic peptides, it will be recognized that the same will extend to all functional derivatives thereof, which is meant to include functionally comparable peptides derived from the same region